



**Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI)
Gateway Building, Room 303
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046**

**Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2015**

Present: Lynn Albiso
Heidi Burghardt
Nicole Czarnecki
Jean Daniello
Jim Ennis,
Elliott Finkelstein
Andrea Kolp
Douglas Lea
Bridget McCarthy,
Chelsea Stanton

Excused: John Blake
Arthur Gold
Diane Mikulis
Steve Rivers

Absent: Gloria Smith

Guests: Phyllis Madachy, Presenter
Beth Benevides, Presenter

Staff: Erica Lewis (Staff Liaison)
Terry Zeigler (Recording Secretary)

Minutes recorded by Terry Zeigler

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. Welcome and introductions
Three new members were appointed to CDI 7-6-2015: Elliott Finkelstein, Heidi Burghardt, and Diane Mikulis.
- III. Presentation #1:
Phyllis Madachy, Director
Howard County Department of Citizen Services

In response to concerns shared by CDI members, Ms. Madachy suggested that the group identify “priorities” and “actionable items” for the County Executive.

IV. Presentation #2:

Beth Benevides, Co-Chair

HC Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities

The Howard County Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities was created in April 2013 via an Executive Order from then-County Executive Ken Ulman. The term of the Transition Council was subsequently extended via a second Executive Order, in June 2014. The Commission on Disability Issues is an appointed member of the Transition Council. Ms. Benevides requested that CDI support the efforts of the Transition Council with regard to employment of transitioning youth with disabilities, specifically by honoring all nominees in the CDI Leadership Awards program employer category with some type of recognition. CDI motions and voting approved recognition of nominees with designation of “honorable mention.” CDI will continue to select and honor award recipients.

V. The minutes for June 22, 2015 were approved as written.

VI. New Business

A. 2015 Awards Program

1. Erica distributed copies of the nominations and also the scoring sheets – which were approved at the June 22nd meeting - for review. Discussion took place. By majority vote, CDI approved a motion to consider Accessible Resources for Independence as a provider candidate, not as an employer candidate. Both provider and employer candidates fall under the same awards category of “Business” Leadership. Award recipients will be given the opportunity to speak to the audience when presented with their award. Those nominees recognized as “honorable mentions” will not be given the opportunity to speak. CDI members expressed a desire for additional discussion time for next year’s awards program, prior to voting. Voting took place and the results are as follows:

Business (Employer):

Award winner is The Little Lighthouse Daycare.

Honorable mentions are Jiffy Lube in Clarksville, and MOM’s Organic Market.

Business (Provider):

Award winner is Accessible Resources for Independence Inc.

Honorable mentions are the Center for Social Change, and Special Olympics Howard County.

Accessibility:

Award winner is Susan Potts.

Honorable mention is Life Fitness Physical Therapy in Columbia.

Individual Achievement:

Award winner is Greg Hlibok.

Honorable mention is Rose Daniello.

2. With respect to the Business Award, one member requested that the nomination for Accessible Resources for Independence be disqualified due to the nominator requesting consideration as an employer and also as a provider. This request was made after the voting process was completed and no further action on this issue was taken.
3. With respect to the Individual Award, one member expressed concerns about the fairness of considering the achievements of a person with an intellectual disability against those of an individual who does not have an intellectual disability. These concerns were stated after the voting process was completed and no further action on this issue was taken.
4. Other event details
Marian Vessels has accepted CDI's invitation to be the keynote speaker at the October 1st awards ceremony. The County Executive has been invited to participate. The October 1st Bain 50+ Center reservation was approved. Invitations will be sent out in the coming week. Arthur Gold will determine the master of ceremonies.
5. Erica suggested that a student essay contest, in celebration of the ADA's 25th anniversary, not be pursued this year.

B. Other new Business

1. In accordance with CDI request, Erica will draft the 2015 annual report, for review at the October 26th CDI meeting. CDI members are asked to please send comments and suggestions to Erica, by September 30th, for inclusion in the report.
2. Erica presented information on a CDI opportunity to co-sponsor two October 15th Kathie Snow presentations. Daytime workshop is titled "Leadership, Self-Direction, Inclusion, and Dreaming Big Starts Today." Evening workshop is titled "Living Real Lives, Dreaming Big Dreams." Both will be offered free-of-charge and are open to the public. CDI declined the opportunity to co-sponsor this event.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Announcements

- A. Erica distributed a flyer for a free September 25th workshop presented by Dwayne Ross, "Find Your Niche...Moving Beyond the Cracks: Cultivating Careers in a Changing Employment-First Culture," 9:00 am to 12:15 pm at the North Laurel Community Center.
- B. The next CDI Provider Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 9th, 9:30 to 11:30 am, in room 303 of the Gateway Building.

This meeting features a presentation by Karen Lee, who was recently appointed as a special projects fellow by Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to work with stakeholders in developing a vision, policy, and strategic plan for integrated employment and other community services. Presentation includes: waiver options and service models available to transitioning youth and adults who have DDA funding, recent federal legislation / changes impacting service models and expectations in our state, and the Employment-First initiative.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next CDI meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2015,
6:30 to 8:30 pm, in Room 303 of the Gateway Building.

To request this document in an alternate format, or to request accommodations for participation in a Commission on Disability Issues (CDI) meeting, please contact Erica Lewis at 410-313-6402 (Voice/Relay) or at eealewis@howardcountymd.gov at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.